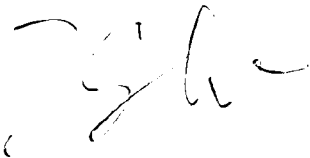


## **Declaration**

Now, it should be explained first that AAK98621 is the amino acid sequence of Chicken Type II Collagen, which is translated from the nucleotide sequence. Said sequence, the mRNA sequence thereof, and the complete genomic sequence were submitted for the first time on July 19, 2001. For several reasons, we filed the request for withdrawal of the sequences to Genbank within a week after the submission. Genbank approved and revoked them from Genbank catalog. After finishing the subsequent study, we resubmitted completely improved nucleotide and amino acid sequence to Genbank in 2003. Its corresponding mRNA sequence Number is the current AY046949. When our paper was formally published on the international magazine "Gene" in January, 2006, the paper was submitted to Genbank for further confirmation on February 8, 2006.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xi Yongzhi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Xi Yongzhi, M.D